

Changes to the Supplemental Draft General Management Plan

In January 2003, NPS released a *Supplemental Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* for the National Area. The *Supplemental Draft* generated a total of 171 comments from the public. Based on these comments and additional internal review by NPS staff, a number of changes have been made to the Preferred Alternative of the *Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement*. The most important of these changes are summarized below.

The final GMP:

- Combines the “seasonal access” trail-type with the multiple-use trail category to create a single designation. Most trails listed as “seasonal access only” in the *Supplemental Draft* have been converted to year-round multiple-use trails. These trails are open to 4-wheel drives, 2-wheel drives (where the route allows), horses, mountain bikes, hikers, and, during big game season only, ATVs (when used by licensed hunters). Some short seasonal access routes in the draft plan have been removed from the official roads and trails system. However, the total number of trail miles available to multiple uses remains virtually unchanged under the final plan: 49 miles in the final plan (multiple-use trails) vs. 48 miles in the *Supplemental Draft* (seasonal access routes plus multiple-use trails).
- Provides additional opportunities for mountain bikes. The final plan will:
 - Allow bicycling on the existing connector trail from the National Forest Sheltolee Trace Tr. -> Divide Rd (development map 4: trails ST-35, JMT-51, and JMT-50). This short connector would enable bikers to ride the loop that includes Divide Road and the portion of the Sheltolee Trace Trail on the National Forest.
 - Allow bicycling on Cat Ridge, Long Trail North, and the Kentucky Trail (development map 3: trails LTN16, KY-28, LTN-28, KY-39, KY-27, KY-71, and KY-26), so that cyclists could complete a circuit that includes Bald Knob – Hill Cemetery Road and Laurel Ridge Road. This loop would have a high degree of challenge and may need some physical modifications prior to being a fully functional bike circuit.
 - Allow bicycling on Rock Creek Trailhead -> John Muir Trail -> John Muir Overlook -> Chestnut Ridge (development map 4: development site 4; trails 33, JMT-50, JMT-15, 3 and 4), to create a loop that includes Divide Rd. This route is already suitable for bicycle use.
- Adds language stating that if the Monday-Friday “experiment” is successful on Grand Gap Loop, NPS would consider allowing bikes on the following two trails, also on a Monday-Friday basis:
 - John Muir Trail (development map 7: trails 10 and JMT-20). This would allow a cycling loop that includes Alfred Smith Rd. -> John Muir Tr. -> Duncan Hollow Rd.
 - Angel Falls Trail (development map 7, trail 3; development map 8, trail 1).
- Makes the following changes in the Darrow Ridge area (Development Map 10):
 - Opens Little Cliff Trail to horses and bicycles
 - Designates the following as multiple-use trails to allow equestrian use: Darrow Ridge Road (eastern portion), Christian Cemetery Road, Little Cliff Road (to gorge closure), and Upper Panther Branch Road
 - Changes the road standard for Darrow Ridge Road (western portion) to “2-lane paved”
 - Designates John Hall Trailhead for horses and hikers as a second access to the Darrow Ridge Horse Trail

- Makes the following changes in the Hurricane Ridge/Big Woods area (Development Map 8):
 - Adds the Hurricane Ridge Trail. Part of this trail is designated as a multiple-use trail; the remainder is a designated horse trail
 - Includes the Long Ridge Trail on the development map. (This trail was inadvertently omitted from the map in the *Supplemental Draft*.)

The foregoing changes will not result in any environmental impacts not previously analyzed in the *Supplemental Draft GMP*.